The Citizen
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Wednesday, February 2, 2011
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Advertisement Feature

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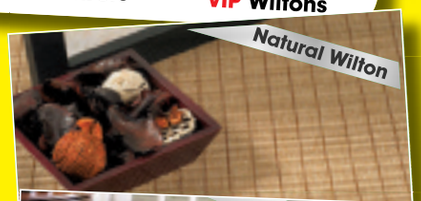

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It's time to trash the scam letters

Bins are set up to curb the cons

By DAVID WATKINSON

SPECIAL "scam bins" are to be put in place after a rise in concerns over posted cons.

Council and Office of Fair Trading bosses said lotteries, deceptive prize draws, fake psychics and miracle health cures were all being mailed to residents.

Now, throughout February, residents are being asked to collect their scam mail and drop it off at points across East Lancashire.

"Scamnesty" drop-offs will be at all libraries, police stations and citizens' advice bureaux across Burnley, Hyndburn, Pendle, Rossendale, Blackburn with Darwen, and the Ribble Valley.

County Councillor Albert Atkinson, deputy leader of Lancashire County Council, said: "The sad reality is that while scams are a massive problem with some people being conned out of very large sums, only one in 20 victims report them.

"The reason scams are so popular with criminals is that they're very cheap to create and you only need a small proportion of people to be taken in to start raking in the proceeds.

"The types of scam are almost endless and the criminals responsible are always coming up with new ones.

"The fact that so many people are affected every year shows that we're all potential victims and need to be on our guard."

The OFT is advising residents to "Stop, think and think again", pass on the warnings and tell family and friends if you discover a scam.

Their action may help protect others from becoming a scam victim.

Last week police seized thousands of scam letters aimed at luring potential victims into handing over cash to fraudsters as part of a national campaign.

Officers believe £3.5 billion is stolen from Britons every year, with £2.4 billion being lost as a result of mail scams.

If you think you have been the victim of a scam call Consumer Direct on 0845 404 0506 or visit www.consumerdirect.gov.uk/scams.

JUNK MAIL: County councillor Albert Atkinson and detective inspector Janet Baldwin of Lancashire Constabulary launch the scam bin campaign to put a halt to scam letters in the area

Hayley's coat brings comfort

How Accrington TV actress Julie Hesmondhalgh's famous red anorak will help keep hundreds of people warm through the worst of the winter

STORY 3

TOM IN CHEEK

Controversial Canadian comedian Tom Stade is set to roar into town with his outrageous brand of humour which he says is not for the fainthearted

STORY 13

Stalls all set to carry on trading

Regeneration chief Dave Harling has assured market traders they can carry on trading despite a hitch in building their new £8m home

STORY 6

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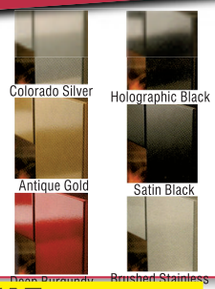

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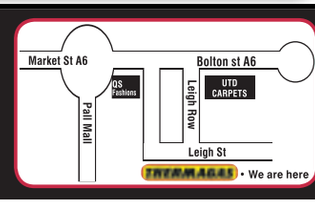

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Citizen In brief

Star's red anorak to boost charity

A Coronation Street star's red anorak will help a charity keep people warm through the winter.

Accrington-born actress Julie Hesmondhalgh, famous for her role as Hayley Cropper, has donated a signed red anorak similar to the one worn by her on-screen character, for the Wrap Up Against Poverty winter coat auction organised by Elizabeth Finn Care. Bids help those in financial need buy clothing to keep warm during the winter. The auction began on eBay on Monday. Visit www.elizabethfinncare.org.uk

Help save lives

Blood donor sessions take place today (Wednesday) at Darwen Masonic Hall, in Hawkshaw Avenue, from 1.30pm to 3.30pm, and from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

The Citizen

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Music leader to leave cathedral

By DAVID WATKINSON

The man behind Blackburn Cathedral's highly-successful music programme is to leave his role.

Richard Tanner is to take up a prestigious position training the country's top young choristers. Mr Tanner, who has worked as music director at the cathedral for 12 years, will become the director of chapel music at Trinity College of Music in London.

He said the job will allow him to work with the most talented up-and-coming choristers in the country. He will be based at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

Mr Tanner, a father-of-two and former St Paul's Cathedral choirboy, said: "I am definitely looking forward to the new challenge and working with a group of young people who have focused their entire lives on developing themselves as musicians.

"I have made lots of friends here in the past 12 years and it is going to be very sad leaving, but it is a great opportunity."

In his time at Blackburn Cathedral, he has overhauled the music provision. The number of choirs has jumped from three to nine and there are now more opportunities for girls to take part, and for children as young as four.

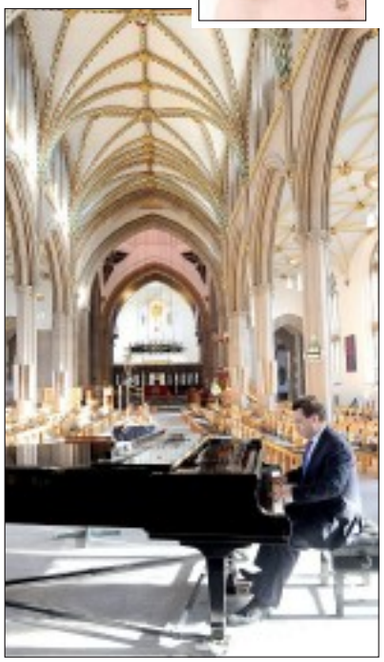
Mr Tanner has also headed a £1million cathedral appeal for music projects, a choral scholarship scheme, and founded a friends of Blackburn Cathedral Choir group.

He has also started education work in the community involving several schools in Blackburn, Accrington, and Burnley.

Last year he was honoured by the Royal Academy of Music for his outstanding contribution in his field of music.

Mr Tanner will move to London with his wife Philippa Hyde, a professional singer, and their children James, 10, and Ben, four. His last service will be at the cathedral on March 2 and he takes up his new role on March 7.

PRESTIGIOUS POST: Richard Tanner



NEW CHALLENGE: Richard Tanner in Blackburn Cathedral. Top, his wife, singer Philippa Hyde.

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A new chapter

The newly-refurbished Accrington Library is to fully reopen this month. The development has cost £250,000 and a new exhibit, called Wonderful Things, will begin this Saturday. Rarely-seen books, maps and drawings will be on display as part of the exhibit.

OK, so we're better at removing bad ads than making good ones.

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Get advice to train and work

TEENAGERS looking to train on the job can find out about apprenticeships next week.

Activities have been organised for Blackburn with Darwen youngsters as part national apprenticeship week from February 7.

The Connexions centre in Blackburn will hold drop-in sessions about apprenticeships for young people and their parents, with employers who have apprenticeship vacancies.

Apprenticeship courses can range from construction to hairdressing, IT to child care and many more.

Events will take place on February 8: New Victoria Building, Blackburn College from 4.40pm; February 9: Training 2000, Harwood Street 5.30pm to 8pm; February 10: Connexions, Ainsworth Street, 10am to 4pm; Training 2000, Harwood Street 5.30pm to 8pm; Scholars Restaurant.

Stalls carry on trading

By TOM MOSELEY

Stallholders in Blackburn market have been reassured they can carry on trading despite a hitch opening the new complex.

The proposed £8million market, on the ground floor of Blackburn shopping centre, has been delayed after one of the contractors went into administration.

Council chiefs say they are still unsure how long the opening – originally planned for March 5 – will be held up, and a new date will be set this week. It comes after traders said their businesses were being damaged by the uncertainty, claiming customers thought the current site, in Ainsworth Street, had already closed.

But the councillor in charge of the project, Labour regeneration chief Dave Harling, said: "Traders can stay on the existing market after March 4 and continue trading until the new market opens. We are trying to help and support traders through the next few weeks as best we can and it is only right that rent reductions continue while they are still trading from the old market."

Coun Harling said service charges were being reviewed, but could not promise any reductions because of the council's dire financial plight.

Meanwhile, talks are under way to try and relocate the shops inside the market complex, including Reidy's Home of Music and Rebound, a charity shop selling second-hand books and Fair-trade goods. Rebound manager Jenny Potter said: "It has been a real success since we opened in March. We are hoping to carry on the shop, but at the moment it is a bit up in the air.

"We know this place is closing, so obviously we are looking for new premises."

Oddies Bakery, which has been in business since 1905, has taken a lease in the new market area.

TALKS: Jenny Potter and Bozena Douthwaite at Rebound, Penny Street, Blackburn. Left, Coun Dave Harling.

LET US KNOW
Are you affected by the uncertainty?
blackburncitizen.co.uk/news
lt_editorial@lancashire.newsquest.co.uk

Citizen In brief

Call to reopen public house

Coun Kath Pratt says Hyndburn Council will urge Thwaites brewery to reopen the Regency pub, in Blackburn Road, Accrington, in time for town centre St George's Day and royal wedding celebrations in April. Thwaites say the closure is temporary and due to refurbishment.

Fun for tots

Weekley creative sessions for pre-schoolers take place at Oswaldtwistle Civic Arts Centre. On Wednesdays, from 9.30am to 10.30am in term time, pre-schoolers can paint and play, while mums have a coffee and a chat. Admission is £2 per child per session.

Libraries debate

The first in a series of consultations on the future of local libraries is to take place at Roman Road Library, Blackburn, on Thursday, February 3, from 5.30pm to 7pm. Government cuts mean Blackburn with Darwen Council has to make savings and one of the proposals is to change the way libraries operate in the borough.

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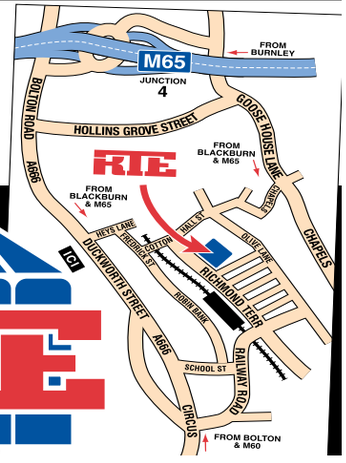

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Call for action on 'potholes'

By NAZIA PARVEEN

Darwen motorists are calling for action after raising concerns about the poor state of the town's roads.

The big freeze had a devastating effect on roads in the county, with many surfaces littered with craters and potholes.

Earlier this month, our sister newspaper the Lancashire Telegraph launched a Pothole Watch campaign urging readers to send in photos of the worst-hit roads in the area to compile an online map and a gallery of photos, and to keep readers informed about when potholes have been fixed.

Pothole hotspots include James Street West, Belgrave Road, and Borough Road, in Darwen. Darwen resident Simon Heslington said: "They probably think it is cheaper to patch the potholes than properly repair the road. What I think they fail to understand is that potholes are not randomly appearing all over, but that there are certain key areas being repeatedly repaired again and again.

"There needs to be a massive overhaul of all the major roads in Darwen, otherwise this problem is just going to get worse and worse."

Many potholes have appeared because of water repeatedly freezing and expanding in cracks in the road. In Blackburn with Darwen, resurfacing has got under way on many badly-affected stretches, including the A666 through Darwen.

Sunnyhurst ward councillor Tony Melia called for a 'complete overhaul' of the road maintenance programme.

He said: "The roads are appalling at the moment and they will get worse because when they are repaired the job is not done properly and they are just patched up. There are some potholes in speed bumps in the town, and they are really dangerous because people are swerving to miss them."

REPAIRS DEMAND: The road surface in Belgrave Road, Darwen

SEND IN YOUR PICTURES

- Email pcockerton@nqnw.co.uk
- Text LT and your photo to 80360
- Post them on the Lancashire Telegraph Facebook page at facebook.com/lancashiretelegraph
- Send them via Twitter to @lancstelegraph

Include your name and the street the pothole is in. Place a ruler next to the pothole in your photo to help us to see the scale of the problem.

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CitizenTime

Justin's now a Japanese boy

Comedian and presenter Justin Lee Collins talks about his new travel documentary series examining Japanese culture

60 SECONDS WITH ... JUSTIN LEE COLLINS

WHAT WAS THE MOST MEMORABLE THING ABOUT MAKING TURNING JAPANESE?
In show one, probably the experience of meeting a love doll collector. I went to the love doll showroom, which is quite a big thing in Japan. I went to the factory to see how the dolls were made and met the owner of the company who talked me through the whole process.

YOU ALSO SPEND AN EVENING AS AN ESCORT. HOW WAS THAT?
Yeah, that was interesting: I was a male host. You get these Japanese women who pay an awful lot of money to go to a bar and drink champagne with attractive young Japanese men, but on this one particular evening there was a new kid in town.

AND HOW DID THEY FIND YOU?
I'm not entirely sure, different I think. It's nice to have a different flavour every now and again isn't it? I think they found me okay. I did manage to step on some toes though. There's a whole etiquette, so if a male host is in the company of a lady, then it's part of your job to kind of help him out, but what you have to do is make him look good.

YOU ALSO WENT TO A SINGLES CLASS. DID YOU MANAGE TO TEACH THEM ANYTHING?
No, I don't really have anything to teach, I'm rubbish, there's nothing you can possibly learn from me.

What's on

theatre

FUNNY MONEY — Garrick Theatre Club, ACE Centre, Nelson, February 2 to 5.
ROMEO AND JULIET — Bolton Octagon, Thursday, February 3 to Saturday, March 5.
THE RING OF STONES — Bury Met, Thursday, February 3.
HAMLET — The Lowry, Salford Quays, February 8 to 12.
DAY OF RECKONING — Todmorden Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society, Todmorden Hippodrome, February 16 to 19.
OTHERS — Bury Met, Wednesday, February 16.

gigs

FAIRPORT CONVENTION — Burnley Mechanics, Saturday, February 5.
SANDY WRIGHT AND THE TOXIC COWBOYS — Bury Met, Saturday, February 5.
LONDON COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR — The Grand, Clitheroe, Sunday, February 6.
TEDDY THOMPSON & DAVID FORD — The Lowry, Salford Quays, Sunday, February 6.
ALEXANDRA BURKE — Blackpool Opera House, Monday, February 7.
TWIN ATLANTIC — 53 Degrees, Preston, Tuesday, February 8.
MARTIN SIMPSON TRIO — The Grand, Clitheroe, Wednesday, February 9.

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No-holds barred

By KATE TURNER

Although he has been on the comedy circuit for 20 years, outrageous Canadian émigré Tom Stade is still a new boy when it comes to television.

Billed as one of the rising stars of 2011, the 40-year-old started making a name for himself after being invited to appear on Channel 4's Mock The Week in 2009. Since then he has gone on to appear in BBC's Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow and Stand-Up For The Week on Channel 4.

And his biggest TV job to date has seen him join forces with the nation's most controversial comedian to co-star and write in Frankie Boyle's Tramadol Nights on Channel 4.

And now Tom is taking is own brand of humour on the road with his debut 40-date solo UK, Tom Stade Live, which takes in a date at King George's Hall, Blackburn, on February 23.

"The show is about love, laughter and life. It is a beautiful journey into the mind of Tom Stade and who knows how it will end? Many people have got lost in my mind," he laughed.

LAUGHS APLENTY: Tom Stade

Tom, who is no stranger to controversy, having made the headlines with the provocative material on Tramadol Nights, says that his tour is full of mischievous humour.

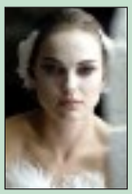
"The show isn't for people who are easily offended. Touring is brilliant because you can be yourself and say what you want. If they don't like it then they can watch someone else.

"TV is great because it is just like a huge free advertisement for your work. But just so sanitised. For some reason, the people in charge of communications don't trust comedians not to offend people and think that the audience need protecting from certain words."

Tom started out performing stand-up around British Columbia when he was 18 and says that his dad encouraged his rambunctious style of humour.

"My dad is a huge comedy fan. I didn't realise it at the time but it has made me a funnier person. We would watch anything. He said that nothing should be censored for a comedian and that there is no such thing as bad words when a comedian uses them as there are no repercussions."

Cinema round-up



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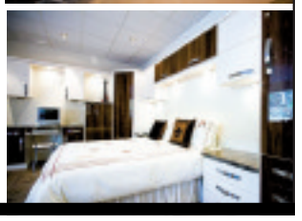

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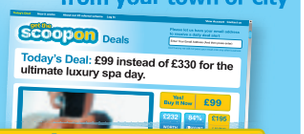

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Barnardo's Calls For More People To Consider Becoming Foster Carers

This week is Barnardo's Fostering and Adoption Week (31 Jan – 6 Feb). The charity is urgently appealing for people to consider becoming a foster carer for the thousands of children across the UK who are in need of temporary or permanent homes.

Foster carer's just need to be able to provide a loving, stable home for children who are unable to stay with their birth parents. Foster carers come from all walks of life, and many see it as a rewarding and challenging career change. Others combine it with bringing up their own children.

The children need someone to look after them for a few days, weeks, months or even years. You will need a spare bedroom, full time availability as the main carer, and some experience of living or working with children.

What to expect

All families have their ups and downs and at times, a decision may be made that foster care will help the child and family to move forward together.

Some children have experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse. Many have low self-esteem or challenging behaviour. Disabled children and those with a learning difficulty also require placements. By providing a loving secure home the children and young people can regain their self respect and confidence.

Barnardo's always takes the time to match the right foster carer and child. Barnardo's foster carers receive training, a support package, and regular opportunities to get together with other carers and Barnardo's workers.

An assessment process, including appropriate checks are completed to become a foster carer, which takes 3-6 months.

If you are interested in fostering with Barnardo's please contact their friendly team for an informal chat.

CONTACT DETAILS

For more information call the North West Fostering team on **0845 894 9509** or visit **www.barnardos.org.uk/fostering**

Amanda Hurst

Former special needs teacher, Amanda Hurst, became a Barnardo's foster carer 8 years ago. During Fostering and Adoption Week she tells us how combining family with her profession has been the most rewarding challenge of her life.

"My old job teaching special needs children was great but with fostering I could see the chance to make a big difference to a child's life," Amanda explains.

Amanda involved the whole family in the decision, and told Barnardo's that she wanted to take on a child with learning difficulties. She says it's the little things that count: "When one of our foster children came to us, she could only be fed by someone else and drank through a tube. Eventually I taught her to feed herself and use a cup to drink, a basic skill but one that's made such a difference to her quality of life."

Amanda says she also enjoys a better work life balance: "Being a foster carer is a 24 hour job, the same as being a parent. But the way I see it, I can work from home and have time to do other things when the foster children are at school."

Amanda says that one of the best things about fostering with Barnardo's is the amount of support foster carers receive: "You get so much more than you would with your own children - Barnardo's staff are always on the end of the phone and more than willing to help you out."

To anyone thinking about fostering, Amanda says: "If you think you could do it, why not just ring up and find out more. What you get back is so much greater; our gift is that our foster children have become part of our family forever."

Thinking of a new career? Think fostering

Believe in children

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We need foster carers who can provide both long term and short term family experiences for children.

These are children that have experienced pain, distress and confusion. They need stability, care and a safe environment in which to thrive.

Experience of working directly with children and young people would be an advantage, but not essential.

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(Mon –Fri, 9.30am - 5pm, or 24 hour answer machine)

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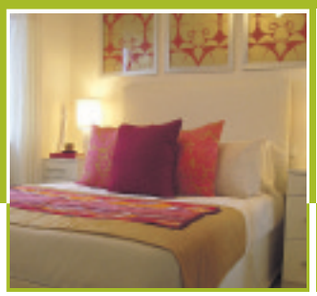

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Not only does this development enjoy fabulous countryside surroundings, it also benefits from close city links to Chorley and Manchester and the motorway network. There is a wide range of schools and sixth form colleges to choose from for families moving to the area, as well as plenty of leisure and shopping facilities.

Home of the week at Eccleston Park is plot 85, the three bedroom Maidstone. The ground floor features a spacious lounge, leading on to an open plan, fully fitted kitchen and dining area. The ground floor has a convenient cloakroom leading off from the front hallway, whilst the dining area has the picturesque addition of French Doors which open out on to the rear garden.

Upstairs is the master bedroom which benefits from its very own en-suite bathroom. Bedrooms two and three are of good size, and make use of the stylish, contemporary family bathroom.

This desirable family home has an incredible list price of only £147,995. What's more, this home also comes complete with carpets, blinds and light fittings!

Also available at Eccleston Park is plot 69; the four bedroom semi detached Patterdale. This home features a light and airy open plan lounge and a fully fitted contemporary kitchen complete with oven, hob and extractor fan. The rear garden is accessed via beautiful French doors from the kitchen, which allow even more light into this exquisite home. A storage area, ideal as a cloakroom and extra washroom facilities located within the entrance hall are a convenient addition to the ground floor.

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Public & Legal Notices

VAUGHAN MICHAEL Died at Darwen on the 16th October 2010 (Estate about £10,000) The kin of the above are requested to apply to the Solicitor for the Affairs of the Duchy of Lancaster, Farrer & Co, 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3LH failing which the Duchy Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate of the above named.

HIGHWAYS AGENCY

THE HIGHWAYS AGENCY
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14
THE M65 MOTORWAY (JUNCTIONS 5 - 4 WESTBOUND CARRIAGEWAY AND JUNCTION 5 WESTBOUND ENTRY SLIP ROAD)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport intends to make an Order on the M65 Motorway in the Borough of Blackburn with Darwen in the County of Lancashire to enable bridge joint replacement works to be carried out in safety.

The Order will ban all traffic from the westbound carriageway of the M65 Motorway between Junctions 5 and 4 from the last point where the Junction 5 exit slip road leaves the carriageway to the first point where the Junction 4 entry slip road joins the carriageway.

The Order will ban all traffic from the entry slip road leading to the westbound carriageway of the M65 Motorway at Junction 5.

The works are expected to take place over two nights between 2200 hours and 0500 hours starting on Monday 7 March 2011 and ending on Wednesday 9 March 2011. However, if necessary, work may start and continue between the same times on subsequent nights or continue until completed.

Traffic travelling westbound on the M65, or wishing to join the westbound carriageway of the motorway, will be directed to travel north on the A6177 and then west on the B6231 to the A666 where they will be directed to travel south before joining the westbound carriageway of the motorway at Junction 4.

The prohibitions will apply only during such times and to such extent as will be indicated by traffic signs and will not apply to vehicles being used in connection with the works or by traffic officers, or to vehicles being used for emergency purposes by the police, fire and rescue or ambulance services.

The Order comes into force on Sunday 6 March 2011 and has a maximum duration of eighteen months.

The Agency contact for any further information about this notice is Susan Hurley telephone no. 0161 930 5698.

Peter Mitchell, an official of the Highways Agency, Piccadilly Gate, Store Street, Manchester, M1 2WD

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07 (07) FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX ESTATE; metallic red, 10,000 miles, air con £7,990
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03 (53) PEUGEOT 206 1.4 LX; 5 door, air con, silver, only 12,000 miles, service history, 1 owner £3,990
06 (56) FIAT PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE; 5 door, service history, 38,000 miles, metallic grey £3,990
04 (54) NISSAN ALMERA 1.5 SE; 5 door, silver, 1 owner, 41,000 miles, full service history, parking sensors £3,890
05 (05) FORD KA 1.3; 1 owner, silver, 18,000 miles £3,690
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01 (Y) VW POLO 1.4 SE; 3 door, silver, service history, well worth seeing £2,990
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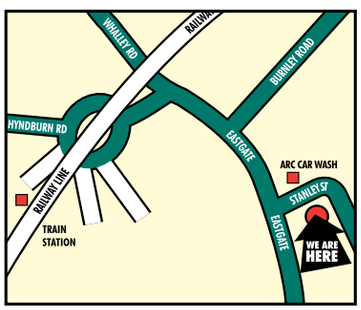

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